



Fact Sheet

Asset Forfeiture

2015

- ▶ The Department of Justice Asset Forfeiture Program is a key component of the federal government's law enforcement efforts to combat major criminal activity by disrupting and dismantling illegal enterprises, depriving criminals of the proceeds of illegal activity, deterring crime and restoring property to victims.
- ▶ The U.S. Marshals Service plays a critical role in identifying and evaluating assets that represent the proceeds of crime as well as efficiently managing and selling assets seized and forfeited by DOJ.
- ▶ Proceeds generated from asset sales are used to operate the AFP, compensate victims and support various law enforcement and community initiatives.
- ▶ The Marshals Service manages a wide array of assets, including real estate, commercial businesses, cash, financial instruments, vehicles, jewelry, art, antiques, collectibles, vessels and aircraft.
- ▶ The Marshals manage the distribution of proceeds to state and local partners and payments to victims of crime and other innocent third parties, all of which helps to mitigate the financial damage inflicted by criminal activity.

<i>Asset Forfeiture Key Statistics</i>	
Value of assets on hand as of Sept. 30, 2014	\$2.2 billion
Number of assets on hand as of Sept. 30, 2014	21,117
Amount distributed to victims of crime and claimants in fiscal 2014	\$1.9 billion
Amount shared with participating state and local law enforcement agencies in fiscal 2014	\$487 million
Equitable sharing proceeds distributed since fiscal 1985	\$7.1 billion

- ▶ The agency employs best practices from private industry to ensure that assets are managed and sold in an efficient and cost-effective manner.
- ▶ The Marshals Service supports communities by transferring certain types of forfeited assets to state, local and nonprofit organizations. Through the Operation Goodwill program, forfeited real or personal property of marginal value can be transferred to state or local governments in support of drug abuse treatment, drug crime prevention and education, housing, job skills and other community-based public health and safety programs.
- ▶ The Asset Forfeiture Program was created in 1984 when Congress passed the Comprehensive Crime Control Act, which provided federal prosecutors and agents the legal and regulatory tools necessary to keep up with, and ahead of, those who commit crime for economic benefit.
- ▶ DOJ AFP participants include the U.S. Marshals Service, FBI, Drug Enforcement Administration, Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys, and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. Other participants include the Food and Drug Administration Office of Criminal Investigations, Department of Agriculture Office of Inspector General, Department of State Bureau of Diplomatic Security, Defense Criminal Investigative Service, and U.S. Postal Inspection Service.
- ▶ Additional information can be found at www.usmarshals.gov/assets, including current asset sales (public auctions and property listings) and the National Sellers List. News feed and email notifications are available by subscription from the Web page.